

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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Contact: Trooper Brian George
(360) 405-6633

Click it or Ticket!

Starting May 15 the WSP will join other law enforcement agencies to look for unbuckled drivers!

Between **May 15 and June 3**, The Washington State Patrol will be teaming up with other law enforcement officers throughout Washington State to look for drivers who aren't buckled up during the Click it or Ticket campaign.

Troopers assigned to District Eight of the Washington State Patrol will be partnering with law enforcement officers across the state and conducting seatbelt emphasis patrols as part of the 'click it or ticket' campaign. Troopers will be out working overtime shifts targeting drivers and passengers who are not wearing seatbelts and those who are not properly buckled. The majority of citizens in District Eight are buckling up; this patrol will target those remaining drivers who are not buckling up.

During the last three years of May Click it or Ticket emphasis patrols, 30,749 seat belt tickets have been written statewide and last May, law enforcement officers cited 10,107 non-seatbelt wearers. The ticket for not wearing a seatbelt carries a fine of \$101.

In August 2001, before the primary seat belt law went into effect, approximately 83% of drivers wore seatbelts. Thankfully, today we have the second highest seatbelt compliance rates in the nation (95.2%). Studies show that seat belts reduce serious injuries by 69% and deaths by 45% - 70%.

After the adoption of the Click it or Ticket project and the primary enforcement seat belt law, the vehicle occupant death number dropped from 517 in 2002 to 419 in 2004 – nearly 100 lives were saved due to increases in seat belt use. Traffic safety officials estimate that for every fatality avoided, about four serious injuries are avoided as well.

"The evidence is overwhelming that seatbelts save lives," explained WSP Chief John R. Batiste. "Our ultimate goal is to save lives, and we hope that our renewed effort to remind drivers in Washington to buckle up will reduce the injuries and fatalities on our roadways."

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[District Eight](#)

Clallam*Jefferson*Kitsap*Mason*Grays Harbor*Pacific*Wahkiakum